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shown. A shin and skull of the fish-eating rodent *Icthyomys-Stolzmanni* from Peru was shown by the department of Mammalogy and Ornithology of the American Museum of Natural History and was said to be the second known specimen. Dr. T. M. Cheeseman, in the department of Bacteriology, showed some preparations from the Bacterial Laboratory of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia, and there was exhibited by Prof. Henry W. Conn, of Wesleyan University, some morphological preparations of *Bacillus* No. 41, interesting for its power of ripening cream for butter. Prof. George S. Huntington, of the division of Anatomy, had an extensive collection illustrating recent work in human and comparative myology. In the section of Paleontology, in charge of Dr. J. L. Wortman, were exhibited a number of specimens from Wyoming, Utah and Dakota, collected by Messrs. Wortman and Petersen during the past year. The department of Geology of Columbia University exhibited a number of specimens obtained in their last summer's expedition.

In the department of Ethnology and Archæology the recent valuable additions that have been made to the collections of the American Museum of Natural History were exhibited. Prof. J. McK. Cattell, in charge of the Department of Experimental Psychology, exhibited a new apparatus for determining photometric differences by the time of perception. Some new apparatus from the Yale University Psychological Laboratory was exhibited by Dr. E. W. Scripture, while Prof. C. B. Bliss, of New York, showed a pendulum chronoscope.

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#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### THE INDIAN AS A FARMER.

THE general statement that the Indian of the Eastern United States was when first

discovered in the wild or hunting stage of development, must be considerably modified when we come to study his mode of life with care. He was in many parts of the land an agriculturist, a small farmer, and was by no means dependent entirely on wild game or natural products.

This has been forcibly brought out by Mr. Lucien Carr, in an article 'On the food of certain American Indians and their method of preparing it,' published in the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society for 1895. The author has examined the literature bearing on the subject thoroughly and his references are abundant and judicious. Within the compass of thirty-eight pages he has collected an amount of information which the student will scarcely find in larger volumes and much of which the archæologist, engaged in the examination of shell heaps and village sites, will do well to make himself acquainted with. His conclusion is that so far as the comforts and conveniences of life are concerned, the Indian was little behind the white pioneer who dispossessed him.

#### RACIAL PSYCHOLOGY.

IN his 'Anthropologie du Calvados,' recently published at Caen, Dr. R. Collignon calls attention to the statistics of the French population compiled by Jacoby and others, showing the relation of superior mental ability to descent. The method pursued was to make a catalogue for each department of all the distinguished men born in it for a century, without reference to the grounds of their celebrity, and then to note what proportion this bore to a million inhabitants. The differences are remarkable, varying from 690 in the department of the Seine (including Paris) to 13 and 14 to the million in Charente and Creuse. Normandy showed 106 per million.

When the several lines of activity were analyzed in which these became eminent,

marked contrasts were observed. The Normans were generally prominent in science, and little so in poetry or works of imagination; while this was reversed for the south of France. Dr. Collignon, therefore, comes to the conclusion: "To the difference of race, a purely anatomical fact shown by the shape of the head and the color of the hair, corresponds a difference in the brain, which reveals itself by a special tendency of the thoughts and particular aptitudes."

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE annual stated session of the National Academy of Sciences will be held in Washington, D. C., beginning Tuesday, April 21, 1896, at 11 A. M. The place of meeting will be at the National Museum. In accordance with the new rule adopted October 30, 1895, the business meetings of the Academy will continue until one o'clock P. M. The scientific meetings will begin at half-past one P. M.

A BILL has been passed by the Legislature of Maryland and signed by the Governor, entitled "An Act to establish a State Geological and Economic Survey and to make provision for the preparation and publication of reports and maps to illustrate the natural resources of the State, together with the necessary investigations preparatory thereto." \$10,000 annually is appropriated for carrying out the provisions of the act, and a commission has been established composed of the Governor of the State, the Comptroller, the President of the Johns Hopkins University and the President of the Maryland Agricultural College. At a meeting of the commission, on March 25th, Prof. William Bullock Clark was appointed State Geologist. He will at once begin work in the field.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL THOS. LINCOLN CASEY died suddenly at Washington on March 26th. He was born on May 10, 1831, and had supervised many important engineering works and public buildings. At the time of his death he had charge of the new Congressional Library,

one of the most notable buildings of the world. General Casey was appointed Chief of Engineers in 1888 and was retired in May, 1895. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, an officer of the Legion of Honor, of France, and author of many important articles and reports.

THE privileges of the laboratories of the International Zoölogical Station at Naples have been extended to *seven* American students for the spring of 1896. At the present moment, however, there are only two American Tables, so that most of these men are accepted at the station through the courtesy of the director, Geheimrath Dohrn. The Smithsonian table has not remained unoccupied a single day since it was established, nearly three years ago, while Prof. Agassiz's table has also been in great demand. This country should have at least three tables at Naples. Who will assume the responsibility of raising the money for the support of a third table?

A MARBLE bust in memory of the philosopher Luigi Ferri was placed, on March 16th, the anniversary of his death, in the hall of the University of Rome, where Ferri taught for twenty-four years. For this memorial about \$200 had been collected by subscription.

FRANK WEIR & Co., New York, announce the publication of an *Index* to the medical press, to be published monthly, beginning the 15th of the present month. It is proposed to give a complete bibliography of papers published in the medical magazines and transactions of the United States and Canada.

*Icones Plantarum*, which has been edited by Prof. Daniel Oliver since 1891, will hereafter be edited by the director of Kew Gardens.

THE French government has decided to continue to Mme. Pasteur the pension of 25,000 fr. which her husband had received for thirteen years.

PROF. FRANCIS R. FAVA, who held the chair of civil engineering at the Columbian University, Washington, died at that place on March 26th, aged about thirty-six years.

M. BERTHELOT, the eminent French chemist, has resigned from the Ministry of Foreign affairs of France.